



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Pakistan

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief – round 2

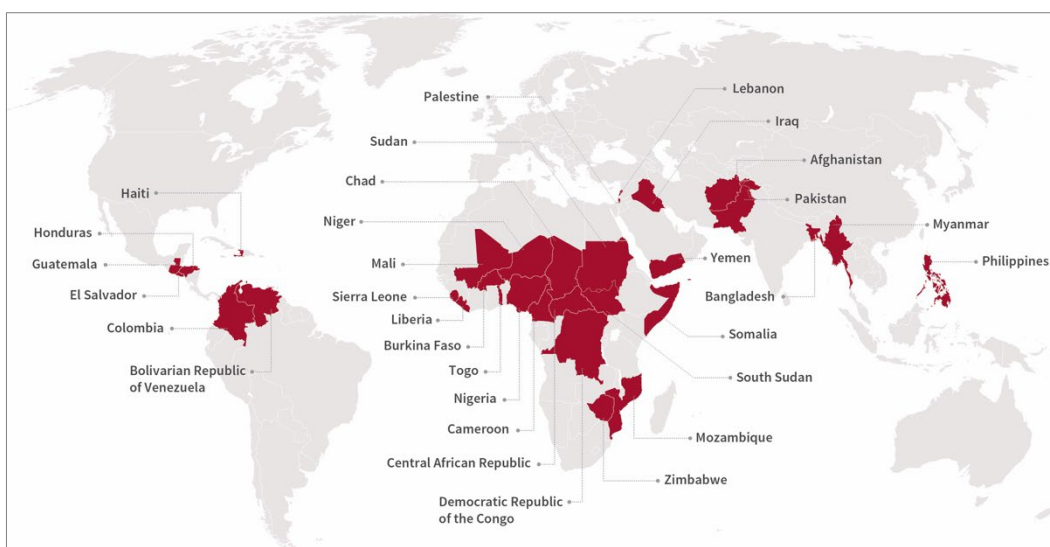
Results and recommendations
January 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Pakistan through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System in July 2021. In collaboration with provincial governments and the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group, this round 2 survey aimed to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security in 25 districts across three provinces vulnerable to multiple shocks. This brief presents the results of this survey, which concluded in August 2021.

The random sample of 4 625 rural households was representative at the admin 2 (district) level in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Face-to-face interviews were carried out in: Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Orakzai, Sout Waziristan districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province; Chagai, Kech, Kharan, Killa Abdullah, Loralai, Nushki, Panjgur, Pishin and Washuk districts in Balochistan province; and Badin, Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Thatta and Umerkot districts in Sindh province.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World* [online]. [Cited 6 December 2021]. www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO has established the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to collect, analyse and disseminate data on shocks, livelihoods and food security in countries prone to multiple shocks. DIEM-Monitoring aims to inform decision making by providing regularly updated information on how different shocks are affecting livelihoods and food security.

At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insights on the context in Pakistan and other countries.

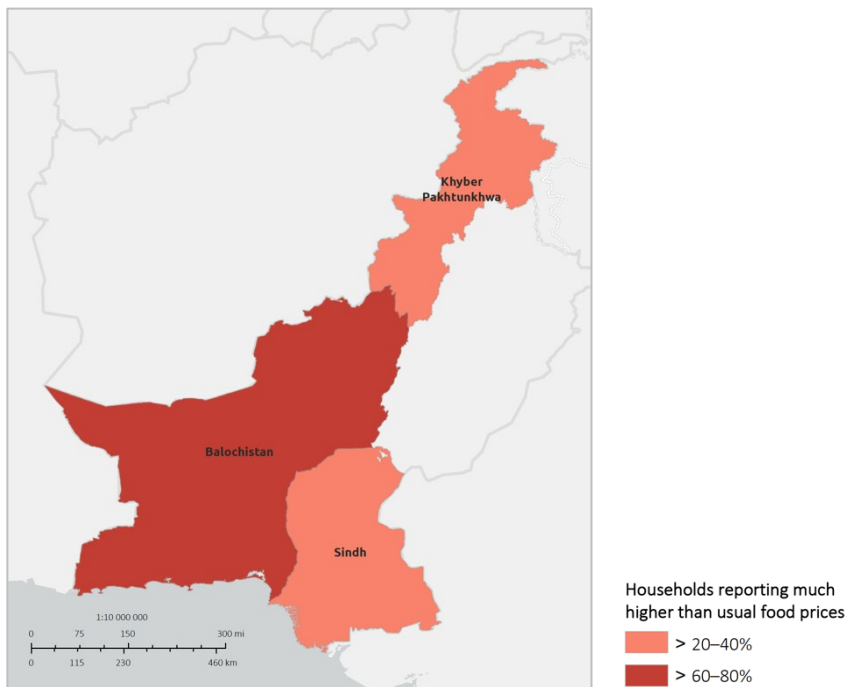
> Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Approximately half of all surveyed households reported reduced income in past three months compared to the same period in a typical year – most were in Balochistan and Sindh. In addition, two thirds of respondents indicated that they were affected by at least one shock in the three months before the survey. The most frequent shocks were: high food prices (37 percent) (Figure 2); sickness or death in the household (33 percent); and high fuel prices (22 percent). Households from Balochistan province were particularly affected, with 88 percent citing shocks, followed by Sindh (65 percent) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (56 percent).

Restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 were cited by 36 percent as impeding or delaying their ability to transport goods to markets; 28 percent reported bans on gatherings and 25 percent reported the closure of food markets. Households reporting reduced income due to COVID-19-related restrictions were concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, while households reporting drought severely affecting the household incomes were most common in Balochistan and Sindh.

Figure 2. Reports of much-higher-than-usual food prices, by region (percentage of respondents)



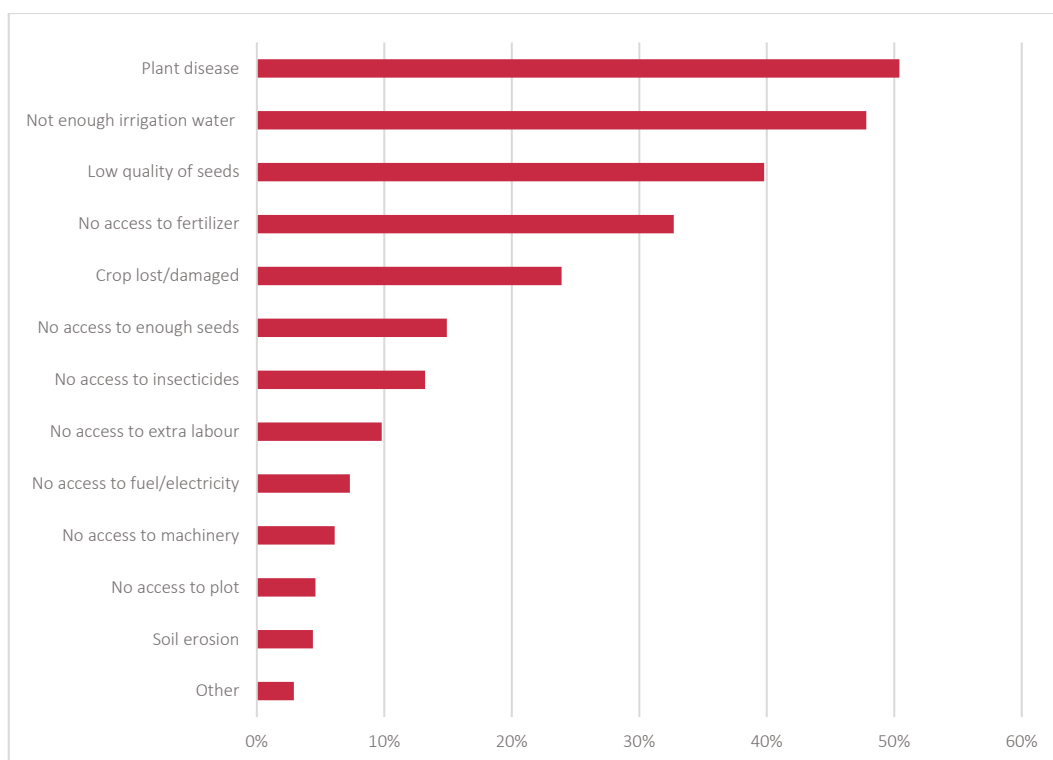
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Pakistan: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Pakistan* [online]. [Cited 17 January 2022].
<https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Crops

The most commonly reported crop-production difficulties among respondents were plant disease and a lack of irrigation water (Figure 3). In Balochistan, 74 percent of crop farmers expected production to be below normal, and in both Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 48 percent expected a below-normal harvest. The most-reported production difficulties were plant diseases, poor seed quality, lack of water and access to inputs (particularly seeds and fertilizer).

Figure 3. Crop-production difficulties (percentage of respondent crop producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Pakistan: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Wheat production in the 2021 *Rabi* season was estimated by secondary sources (including the Government) to be above normal. However, in the surveyed area, rainfall was below average and one third of farmers (concentrated in Balochistan and Sindh) reported reduced planting area during that season. Among wheat producers, 50 percent expected a below-average harvest.

Of the 40 percent of crop farmers who sold produce in the three months prior to the survey, nearly 40 percent (three fourths in Balochistan) reported marketing difficulties. These difficulties included high marketing costs (62 percent), traders or customers not buying as much as usual (36 percent), and low prices for produce (47 percent).

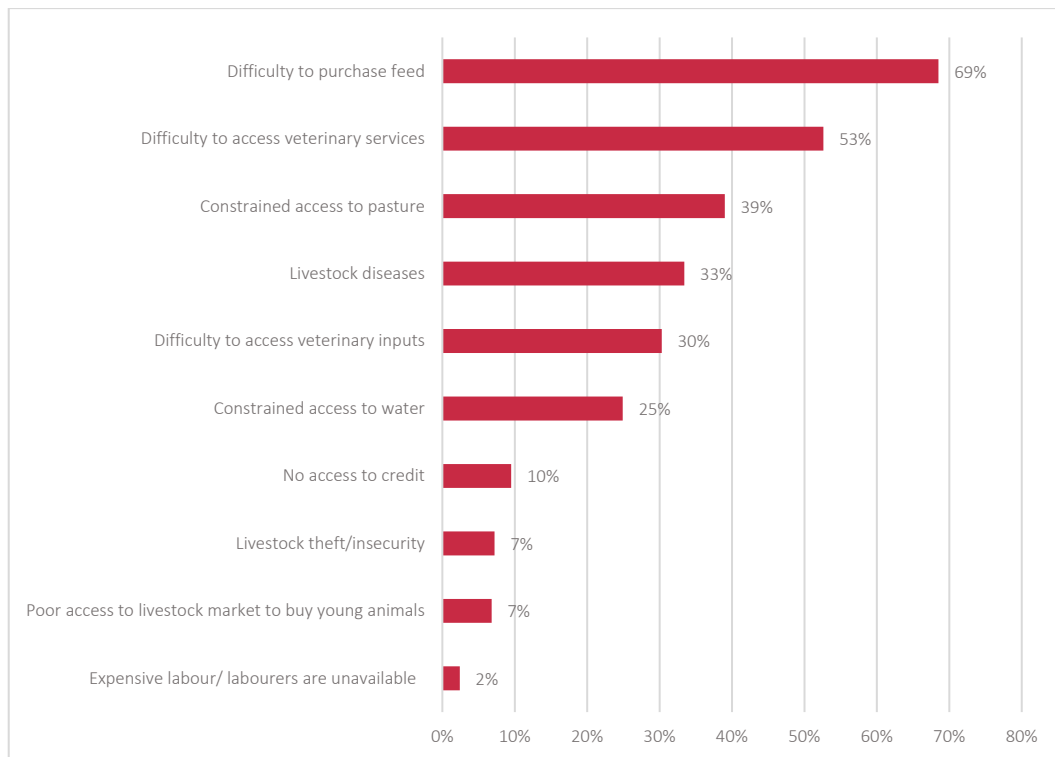
Livestock

Livestock producers reported difficulties purchasing feed and accessing veterinary services, inputs and pastures (Figure 4). Other challenges included livestock diseases and constrained access to water for animals. The death of at least one main animal was reported by 40 percent of livestock producers (54 percent in Balochistan, 41 percent in Sindh and 27 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), mainly due to livestock diseases, limited availability of drinking water and shortage of feed and fodder. In Balochistan, 87 percent of livestock producers cited degraded pasture conditions.

Half of livestock producers reported selling at least one of their main animals in the previous three months (58 percent in Balochistan, 56 percent in Sindh and 27 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). Approximately half also reported difficulties in selling livestock products.

Marketing problems included low sale prices, higher marketing costs (including transportation), decreased purchases by customers or traders, and damage and loss due to delays or inability to physically access markets.

Figure 4. Livestock production difficulties (percentage of respondent livestock producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Pakistan: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

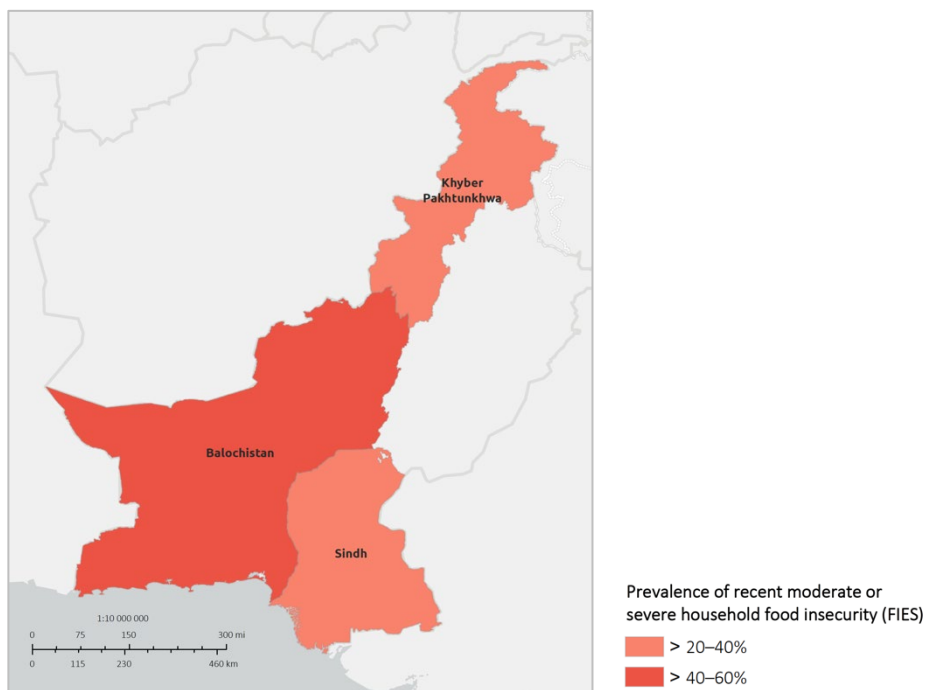
Food security

The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the sample based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was 36 percent (Figure 5), while the prevalence of severe food insecurity was 5 percent. Four percent of the sample had low dietary diversity as assessed by Household Dietary Diversity Scores and 13 percent showed poor consumption according to Food Consumption Scores.

Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index results indicated that 27 percent of households had adopted Stress-level coping strategies, 35 percent had adopted Crisis-level strategies and 11 percent of households had adopted Emergency-level coping strategies in the three months preceding the survey.

These indicators were consistent in highlighting that households in vulnerable districts within Balochistan and Sindh faced the worst food-security outcomes. The data were used in an Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis of acute food insecurity: of 25 districts surveyed, only three (Badin, Dadu and Nushki) were classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). The remaining 22 were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Figure 5. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES), by region (percentage of respondents)



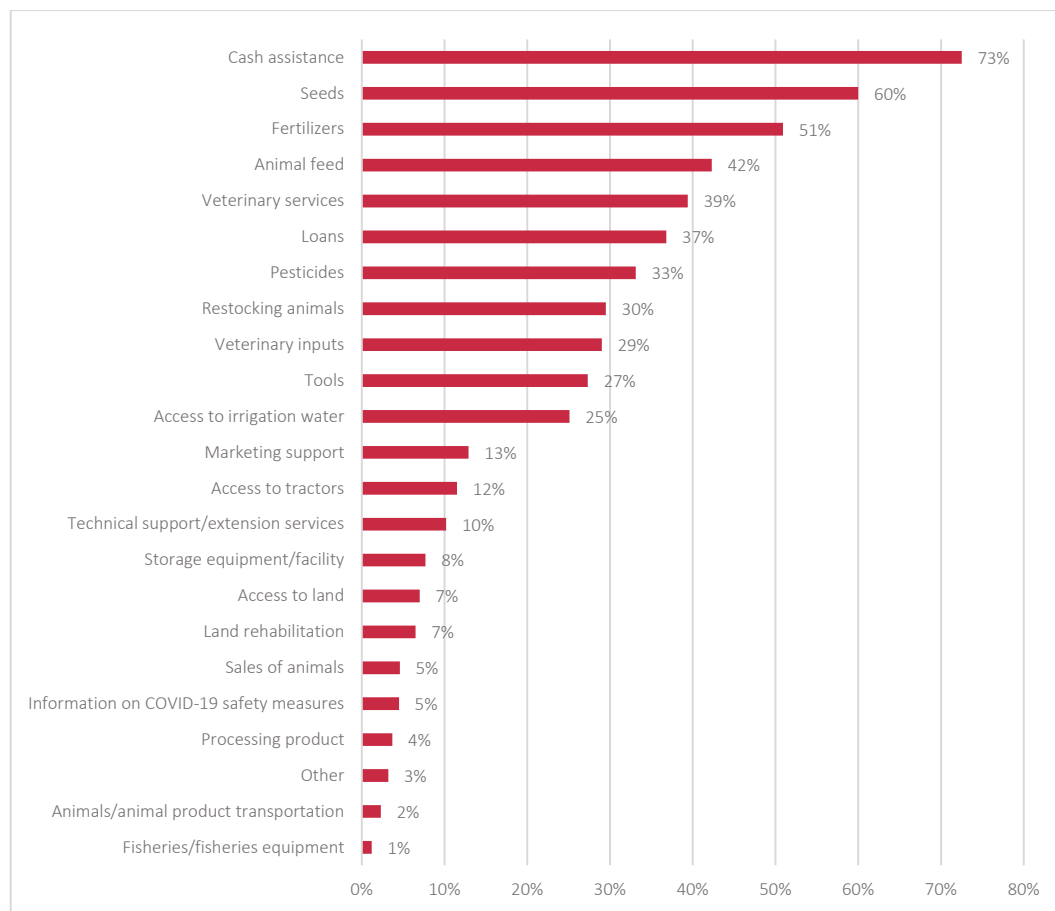
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Pakistan: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

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Needs

Nearly three quarters of survey respondents identified cash assistance as their most urgent need in the next six months (Figure 6). Needs specifically reported by crop producers included seeds (60 percent) and fertilizers (51 percent), while livestock producers cited the need for animal feed (42 percent) and veterinary services (39 percent).

Figure 6. Most-cited needs for assistance (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Pakistan: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Recommendations

- > The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the sample was 36 percent. Access to healthy diets can be increased through food, cash and voucher assistance (as appropriate) to reduce consumption gaps.
- > High-quality seeds and fertilizers for high-yielding crops and vegetables should be complemented by toolkits, with a focus on smallholder farmers. In drought-prone areas, drought-resilient crop varieties should be introduced to ensure sufficient production. Training on climate-smart crop and fodder production should include guidance on kitchen gardening.
- > Livestock programmes should target the most vulnerable households and women farmers, and include animal restocking and seeding of rangelands to produce high-quality fodder. In addition, livestock programming should focus on scaling up protection and management interventions such as vaccination and deworming to prevent diseases and distress sales.
- > Both crop and livestock production require the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure. Farming communities in Pakistan also require capacity building on processing and preservation of seasonal produce to increase their incomes and meet food requirements in the lean season.
- > Livelihood-diversification activities should be introduced to enhance incomes and create new employment opportunities. Economic activities both on and off farm should focus on women to reduce disparities in income between women and men.



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